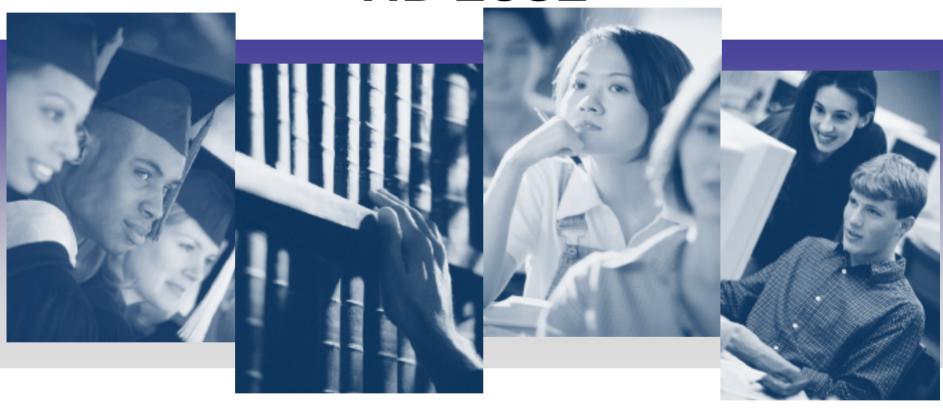
Statewide Transfer System – HB 2382



Presentation to House Higher Education Committee January 27, 2005



What is a statewide transfer system?

- Each higher education institution uses its own course numbering system
- A statewide transfer system would allow students to enter a course they have taken at any institution and determine its equivalent at any other institution – and determine how the course applies to a specific major (web-based)
- Also could be used to promote transfer and degree production for the state

Background

- House Bill 2382 directed the HECB to convene a workgroup and submit a progress report detailing costs and options for a course equivalency system in Washington
- The HECB 2004 Strategic Master Plan includes a statewide course equivalency system as a policy initiative
- The HECB agency budget request includes \$1.6 million for 2005-07 for a statewide course equivalency system; Locke's proposed budget did not include funding

Why is a statewide system important now?

 41 percent of students earning a bachelor's degree have completed at least 40 credits at a community college (2003)

 Students attending more than one institution tend to take more total credits toward their degree

 Early planning and advising help students avoid taking credits that do not transfer

Examples of systems in other states

 Arizona, California, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio

Central websites with state funding

• Example: http://www.asu.edu/provost/articulation/

Benefits of a statewide system

- Providing early planning information
- Allowing students to "shop" for the best use of their credits among different institutions
- Making students aware of all of their degree options
- Allowing students to seek advising any time
- Reducing the possibility of students' taking statefunded credits that do not transfer
- Increasing the number of students who earn bachelor's degrees

Options for a Statewide System

- Automated course equivalency crosswalks
 - A student can use a menu or keywords to enter a course, and receive its equivalent at another institution
- Informal degree audit: how do courses apply to a major?
- Electronic transcript evaluation: so that students don't have to enter each course they have taken
- Electronic transcript exchange among institutions

Options, continued

- Automated alerts for faculty discussions of course equivalencies (instead of manual review of catalogues)
- Interfaces to existing systems at the institutions
- A mechanism for collecting student feedback
 - To better understand transfer processes and evaluate the effectiveness of the system
- "Mapping" of degree opportunities in the state, transfer tips

Costs for a statewide system

- Transfer from:
 - A two-year college to a four-year college (\$1.6 million)
 - Among multiple two-year colleges and to a fouryear college (additional \$666K to \$934K)
 - Among multiple four-year colleges (additional \$576K)
- Including Independent Colleges of Washington (up to \$123K)

Recommendation

 Fund the 2005-07 HECB agency budget at the amount requested for the system: \$1.6 million

 Phase project so that transfer from a single two-year to a single four-year institution is developed first; phase other types of transfer as costs allow

 Direct HECB to develop detailed specifications and select a vendor or contractor